(b) if so, the details of such losses suffered from 1998-99 to the end of December, 2001;

(c) whether the money has also been disbursed by the Railways as compensation to victims of such accidents; and

(d) if so, the amount disbursed during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Loss suffered by Railways due to accidents for the last four years is given below:—

| Year | Cost of approximate damage to Railway property |
|---|---|
| 1998-1999 | 64.32 crores |
| 1999-2000 | 81.94 crores |
| 2000-2001 | 54.98 crores |
| 2001-2002(upto December, 2001)* | 36.49 crores |

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Compensation paid by Railways to accident victims for last 4 years is given below:—

| Year | Compensation paid by Railways (Approximate figures) |
|---|---|
| 1998-1999 | 4.47 crores |
| 1999-2000 | 19.97 crores |
| 2000-2001 | 1.08 crores |
| 2001-2002(upto December, 2001)* | 3.70 crores |

*Figures are provisional.

**Rail Freight Subsidy on Essential Commodities**

†1448. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any scheme to save the Department against the problems of debt and internal tattered situation it is confronted with; if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the freight subsidy being given on essential commodities is going to be reduced greatly by the Department; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Railways are taking steps to improve the financial condition both by controlling expenditure and increasing revenues. Measures have been taken to control expenditure by improving staff productivity, asset utilisation, inventory management and fuel consumption. Concurrently, earnings are expected to improve with rationalisation of freight tariff and passenger fare proposed in the Railway Budget 2002-03, coupled with aggressive marketing and improved services. Efforts are also being made to curb leakage of revenue and pilferages.

(b) No subsidy was being given for transportation of any commodity. However, some of the commodities are carried below cost of operation. As per Railway Budge 2002-03, the freight structure of all commodities is proposed to be rationalized. However some essential comodities of common use such as Edible Salt, Fruits, Vegetable, Gur, Jaggery, Shakkar, certain items of Edible Oils, Foodgrains, Pulses, Organic Manures, Urea, Fodder and Dry Grass are proposed to be carried at lowest Class-90 of freight tariff.

**Purchase of Spares from GE by the Railways**

†1449. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase spares for diesel enging from General Electronic (GE), company of USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Railways had rejected the material of said company in the past;

(d) if so, the reasons for purchasing the spares from GE;

(e) whether Government have recently purchased diesel engines from General Motors, another American Company and that company is transferring the technology also; and

(f) if so, from which company the diesel engines were purchased in the past and the reasons for not purchasing the spares from the same company?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.